A SEASONABLE

LETTER

ON THE LATE TREATY WITH

NIZAM ALLEE KAWN,

AND THE

COMMOTIONS IN CONSEQUENCE OF IT,

ON THE

COAST OF COROMANDEL:

ADDRESSED TO THE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION OF THE

PRESENT DIRECTORS

OF THE

EAST-INDIA COMPANY,

AND THE

PROPRIETORS OF INDIA-STOCK.

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ADVERTISEMENT.

THE following letter having been lately tranſmitted by a gentleman on the coaſt of *Coromandel*, to his correſpondent in *London*, with a requeſt to have it publiſhed, and to adhere to the facts; but with a latitude to have regard to any circumſtances, which the conduct of the gentlemen to whom it is addreſſed, may have introduced here, ſince the date of his letter; the perſon to whom it was incloſed, reſolved to take the opinion of a few friends, whom he ſuppoſed to have ſome general acquaintance with the ſubject. Theſe gentlemen having thought it, on the whole, ſomewhat important, and highly ſeaſonable, the editor complied with his friend's injunction the more readily, as he knew him to have great opportunities of being well informed concerning the matters on which he wrote; and was convinced, from their long acquaintance, of his integrity, and his zealous attachment to the ſervice of his employers.

BRITISH MUSEUM

TO THE

DIRECTORS

OF THE

EAST-INDIA COMPANY,

AND THE

PROPRIETORS OF INDIA-STOCK.

I Chuſe to addreſs you jointly, GENTLEMEN, on the preſent material ſubject, from a perſuaſion, that, as your cauſe is common, your real intereſt muſt be inſeparable; whence your purſuits ſhould conſequently be of one tendency, and center in the ſame object. The conſtituents, by a generous confidence on the one part, and the conſtituted by gratitude and principle on the other, ſhould form, methinks, ſuch an

union, as might induce a conſiderate reaſoner to conclude, that no beam of the edifice could be ſhaken, without endangering, or entirely deſtroying, the whole ſtructure. Such was my early notion of the purity, of the ſtrength and ſimplicity of your ſyſtem, that nothing leſs than the irreſiſtible evidence of your many clamours and diſſenſions, could have convinced me of their poſſible exiſtence, under your preſent apparently ſecure and flouriſhing ſtate. The ſolidity however, and duration of this ſecurity, depending, in ſo great a meaſure, on your reciprocal harmony, your mutual and well-cemented confidence; it may deſerve your earneſt attention to diſcover, whether any members, any men or meaſures, may have given ſuch juſt occaſions for your former, and your preſent diſagreements, as may in the event ſtill fatally increaſe them. Could any ſuch important ſociety as your own, act with the unanimity of a zealous and ſenſible individual, and each be content with his fair proportion of the opulence of the whole, the diffuſive benefits of ſuch an union muſt be conſiderable, and very permanent. But as ſelf-love, however ſpeculatively combined with ſocial, will, too generally, have a manifeſt aſcendance over it, ſuch generous and worthy ſpirits, as would be moſt likely to exult in an equal participation of the general good, muſt reflect, that their extroardinary vigilance is indiſpenſible to the continuance and increaſe of it. Now, though I am much leſs intereſted in the events of your future conduct, than moſt of the gentlemen

I have

I have the honour to addreſs: yet as I am conſcious of aſpiring, however unequally, to the amiable character which I have been juſt contemplating, my fond, but very pardonable attachment to the glory and welfare of the Britiſh empire, and of your community, has prompted me to preſent the following hints (which I think ſo materially relative to them) to your conſideration. It will be obvious, I could not have collected them, without ſome local experience on a ſubject, which I may truly affirm has exerciſed my matureſt reflection.

Since a conſiderable decline of your political health and vigour, Gentlemen, is but too incontrovertible, as your conſcious feelings of it may well be ſuggeſted from ſome late extraordinary conceſſions you have been reduced to make; I offer you this humble tender of my limited obſervation, to inveſtigate a few latent cauſes of it, in a capital department of your ſervice. I hope I have a due ſenſe, both of the value and decency of moderation; but ſtill my regard to truth and fact, muſt be inviolate: and whenever any ſuch meaſures or inſtruments occur, as have eſſentially contributed to your preſent diſorder, they muſt be conſidered with the poignancy or ridicule they truly deſerve. It was a policy in ſome of the Grecian ſtates, to ſuffer no neutrals among their members, upon any point that eſſentially concerned the welfare of the whole; and this may reaſonably infer the vigour and integrity of the ſtate.

But in brief, if the ſubſequent immethodical hints ſhall expoſe any error, which your reflection and wiſdom may ſtill diſarm of its immediate or future ill conſequences, the capital purpoſe of this addreſs to you will be effectually accompliſhed.

You are at preſent involved in a war on the coaſt of *Coromandel*, the conſequence of a moſt abſurd and pernicious alliance. The principal authors of it, it ſeems are returned, and probably, as faithful ſervants, have received your thanks. From the event of this connection, (which was foreſeen by all but thoſe concerned in fabricating it) you will judge how well they have deſerved them. I ſhall at preſent obſerve, that notwithſtanding your late covenants may potentially reſtrain your inferior civil ſervants, and your military officers; yet it would ſeem, that no late treaty has been made without a proper conſideration from thoſe benefited by it; and, in the opinions of many, you have received a glaring proof, that a late new-fangled ſyſtem of politics has as effectually *marked*, *numbered*, and *valued* your army on the coaſt of *Coromandel*, as the forms of commerce oblige you to do the bales you freight from hence. You beſt know the power your charter inveſts you with, of enquiring into fortunes gained by your ſervants at the riſque of your deſtruction; and the grounds you proceed upon will be ſuggeſted by that knowledge, by your retroſpective experience, and preſent diſcernment.

ment. The method of ſcrutiny remains to be conſidered; which, I apprehend, can never be efficacious, unleſs executed by a deputation from your body, largely intereſted in the ſucceſs of the diſcovery.

Men who devote themſelves to the alternate ſmiles and frowns of fortune, are ſo accuſtomed to ſee the *games* variouſly played, that no *manœuvre* can be ſaid to be new to them. In that played by your ſervants abroad, a cool by-ſtander will never be ſurprized to ſee one man purſue, with avidity, the point which another has ſtudiouſly avoided. It is notorious, that a late moſt able and moſt amiable *Governor inceſſantly rejected this very alliance, which the ſucceeding junto ſo greedily embraced; and it looks as if the Baſha *Navillus*, (who then was the ruling deſpot, and had aſſumed to himſelf the title of Earthly Creator of *Oriental* Preſidents) in naming that gentleman's *ſucceſſor, had an eye to his provincial qualifications, by chooſing him from a county, where, by ~~boiling~~ reading the milk, they get an extraordinary portion of rich *clouted cream* from it. There can be little doubt that his native addreſs, in this ſpecies of cookery, has been attended with an exceſſive, rather than a proportional, ſucceſs; but as the pot ſtill ſimmered a little, when he gave the laſt ſtir to the embers, it is not impoſſible, that in unſkilful hands it may boil over to waſte; about which we muſt ſuppoſe him much leſs

* Lord Pigot.

* read backwards, is, Sullivan.

* The late Revd Mr Robert Palke, afterwards Governor of Fort St George, now Member for Wareham.

leſs anxious, than when he immediately preſided over the ſkimmings, and was highly attentive to the utmoſt poſſible increaſe of them. A little patriotiſm indeed diſpoſed him to leave a weſt-country deputy-cook, or ſcullion, to give directions to your preſent head-cook; but as underſtrappers in all departments, (though ſelf-bloated into mere bladders of conſequence) are prone to aſſume and blunder, little benefit on your part can be expected from his humble co-operation.

But without any metaphor, the firſt pregnant evil ariſing from this extraordinary union, was, that by ſtripping the *Carnatick* of your troops, the country of your old and faithful ally, *Mohammud Allée Kawn*, was left expoſed to an inteſtine inſurrection of his own ſubjects. The *Collaries* near *Madura* and *Tinevelſée*, not improbably encouraged by *Heider Naig*, took this opportunity to riſe, and repeatedly repulſed the detachments ſent againſt them under one of your field-officers. Be it admitted, that the command which afterwards marched from *Velloor* to the ſouthward, had better ſucceſs; yet this, far from being any extenuation of the crime of your *treaty-makers*, muſt give it an additional enormity, if it ſhould lead to the injuſtice of your charging to *Mohammud Allée Kawn*'s account, the expence of theſe expeditions. The ceſſion which he had made you of the *Chingleput*, *Carangooly*, *Conjeveram* and *Tripaſſoor* diſtricts, at the cloſe of Lord *Pigot*'s adminiſtration,

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(for which you were to maintain a body of troops for the defence of the *Carnatick)* ought certainly to plead with you againſt ſo inequitable a meaſure. I am not unapprized of the expence attending the march of your ſmalleſt detachments; but as your ally had not the leaſt intereſt in the cauſe, it would be unjuſt, I will add, impolitic in you, to let him ſuffer from the conſequences. He finds himſelf deprived, and without the leaſt demerit ſuggeſted on his part, of the revenues withheld from him by theſe inſurgents. His ſurprize indeed may be leſſened on this intereſting occaſion, from his reflecting, that the† chief author of theſe machinations had once devoted his life to an avowed employment in the worſhip of GOD; the habiliments, at leaſt, of which character he has ſince as eaſily depoſited, as a ſerpent does his ſlough; on which your faithful ally may moſt juſtly exclaim, "What then can man expect!" But any reproaches which he may naturally indulge, on brooding over this deteſtable conduct, in finding himſelf not merely deſerted, but rather ſacrificed, by ſuch a character, will prove a very inſignificant alleviation for the invaſion, rapine, and deſolation introduced into the *Carnatick* by it.

You have received accounts, ſince the defection of your worthy new-made ally, *Nizam Allée Kawn*, and ſince his junction with your old enemy, *Heider Naig*, of ſome ſucceſſes gained by your troops againſt them. But it does not appear that any

† The Revd Mr Palke

thing deciſive has occurred; for thoſe ſurely cannot be regarded as victories (whatever be the number of cannon taken) where you are obliged to decamp and retreat after the action, and are harraſſed upon your march by the cavalry of a *defeated* enemy. At ſuch a juncture, and under ſuch circumſtances, you are happy in having a * man of worth and ability at the head of your army; and there ſhould be no reaſonable doubt of your injoining your preſident and council to treat him proportionally to his acknowledged merit. The weſt-country ſcullion, in particular, ſhould be reſtrained from re-fighting any of his battles at the board; and if his comments were to be confined only to thoſe actions, of which he was an ocular witneſs, the reſtriction would have a ſenſible effect upon your annual expence in paper. In truth, a ſtrict harmony between your civil and military ſervants, cannot be too frequently or too ſtrongly inculcated; for there is an awkward ſuperiority aſſumed by the former, which appears improper and even ridiculous, in the eſtimation of ſtrangers, and can tend little to promote the honour or intereſt of your ſervice. And here, Gentlemen, though juſtly diſcerning the neceſſity of a due ſubordination of the military to the civil power, I muſt take leave to obſerve one defect in your police; notwithſtanding I muſt ſubmit it to you to determine, whether it reſults from your original conſtitution, or has only crept in by time, and been gradually eſtabliſhed on habit and preſcription.

* General Joseph Smith

tion. The fact, however, is this.—That ſometimes a ſubaltern officer, who has ſerved you with fidelity, and without any impeachment of his courage, is over-looked when a promotion of officers is made. This certainly will often be expedient, or even neceſſary to the ſervice, which will then make it juſt too. But the ſame attention is not had to the different capacities of your civil ſervants, as they come to be admitted into your councils: whence it is very poſſible, that the direction of military operations, of the laſt conſequence to you, may iſſue from a majority very incompetent to direct them.

I hope, I may entirely diſcredit a report, that you intend to carry to *Mohammud Allée Cawn*'s account the whole charge of this iniquitous war. It may probably be pleaded by ſome few in behalf of ſuch a meaſure, that you were under a neceſſity of marching into the *Myſure* country, to prevent *Heider Naig*'s threatened invaſion of the *Carnatick*. But does the invaſion of an enemy's country invariably imply the defence of our own? In the preſent caſe, it certainly does not; for whilſt your faithful ally's province was left naked and expoſed, and the paſſes of the mountains unguarded, a body of cavalry could at pleaſure lay waſte his territories, flouriſh their ſabres at the very gates of *Madraſs*, and unhinge your commerce, by the terrour they ſpread amongſt the natives who

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ſupport it. Had your troops been ſtationed at the paſſes; had *Heider Naig* even forced them, and maintained a long war with you in the *Carnatick*; every charge incurred, might, with the greateſt juſtice, have been placed to the *Nabob*'s account. But could he view this odious alliance with any other emotions, except thoſe of jealouſy and indignation? Had he any favourable expectations to form from it? or was he to have any ſhare in the acquiſitions your ſervants had promiſed themſelves, on the other ſide of the mountains? He had not the leaſt plauſible colour to flatter himſelf, with becoming the object of their bounty or diſtinction, under ſuch a contingency; ſince, previous to this engagement with *Nizam Allée*, he was refuſed the renterſhip of the four northern *Circars*, ceded by *Shah Allum* to you; a preference being given to *Huſſein Allée Kawn*, a man before thought unworthy of truſt, and for whom the *Nabob* himſelf was, on a former occaſion, obliged to be reſponſible to your preſident and council. The cruelty of this treatment was rendered ſtill more poignant, by the manner of its being inflicted. A letter was diſpatched to him from the board, under date the 16th Nov. 1766, making him an offer of the *Circars* in queſtion. As he had managed theſe countries under his father, and was well acquainted with the *Polygars* and inhabitants, he conſented to the propoſal, entertaining not the leaſt doubt of his giving entire ſatisfaction to you, from his care of them.

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He returned an anſwer to that effect the 24th Nov. and ſoon after repaired to *Madraſs*. On his arrival he found he had ſwallowed the illuſion; the *Circars* were to have been delivered to him in three months; but in the ſequel, it was determined to give him *Moortazanaiger*, and the remaining *Circars* to *Huſſein Allée Kawn*, who was inſtantly put in poſſeſſion, but *Moortazanaiger* is ſtill, I believe, witheld from *Mohammud Allée Kawn*. Does not this tranſaction reflect the view of a very humble ſcene in this country, where one publican is bidding againſt another for the good-will of the *Red Lion*, or the *Black Swan?* There is no want of candour in ſuppoſing, the uſual puffs and artifices practiſed in thoſe and other auctions, might have been lucratively employed in this ſnug Aſiatic one; however little to the advantage, or rather directly repugnant to the laſting intereſt of the company, and the whole body of proprietors. But the purpoſes of avarice are conſtantly perſonal or domeſtic; the ſpirit of accumulation may be conſidered (though it is hoped by no plurality of Theologiſts) as doing the *one thing needful*; yet experience has ſhewn that an individual may be ſuch a monopoliſt of the cream, as not to neglect the very *ſtrippings*. — After all however, buſineſs muſt be attended to.—The *Nabob* who had accepted their offer of theſe *Circars*, was ſuppoſed to have been outbid; and the political hammer deſcended with as little noiſe, as the ſuppoſed execution by white, or more

probably, by *yellow*, powder. But how mortifying muſt this ſhocking ſtroke have proved to a man of *Mohammud Allée Kawn*'s generous ſentiments and ſtrong feelings! and what bitter impreſſions muſt it not have given him of *Engliſh* gratitude, when the majority concerned in the tranſaction, muſt have been indebted to him for a conſiderable part of their fortunes. There had certainly been no very diſtant æra, when much greater honeſty and gratitude concentered in much ſounder policy

— Fuit hæc ſapientia quondam—
Parcere ſubjectis, et debellare ſuperbos.

But it is hoped a proper regret, for this ſhameful and impolitic tranſaction, muſt revive our former integrity and prudence, and equally juſtify the application of — Hæ tibi erunt artes— which will be juſt equivalent to our proverb—Honeſty is the beſt policy.

Were we indeed to argue abſtractedly from all private (not the general) emolument, this neglected prince (if he may be allowed that ſtile, without offence to your SUBAH of *Madraſs*) has given you ſuch unceaſing proofs of his faithful, his

his invi lable attachments, as one would think, ſhould entitle him, or his neareſt relatives, to ſome moderate, ſome preferring ma ks of your grateful remembrance of them. But ſhould the abundantly jealous, and apprehenſive genius of eaſtern policy, tremble at the thought of any addition to his influence; his hitherto immutable amity to you ſhould at leaſt protect him from the mockery and inſults of your ſervants. The arts practiſed upon his fears are puerile enough to excite your laughter, but their baſeneſs muſt rouſe your indignation. An eccho from a northern *Durbar*, that he would certainly be depoſed on the return of a ſelf-created man of power to *Europe*, has acted moſt ſucceſsfully on his apprehenſions, and his finances. However childiſh and incredible it may appear, there has been an attempt to perſuade him, that the authority, veſted at preſent in twenty four directors would be transferred to an opulent triumvirate upon their return; on which occaſion the name of a gentleman was made free with, who, I am convinced, was an entire ſtranger to the tranſaction. The uſe to be made of ſuch a pe ſuaſion, did it ſucceed, is not difficult to gueſs; and you have the lights of a ſimilar ſtratagem to direct your ſurmiſes. It was enterprized by a juſtly diſmiſſed ſervant, who, upon receiving aſſurances of ſucceeding to the chair (for which his dread of perſonal danger forbad him to wait) prematurely menaced this then diſtreſt prince with his approaching power;

ſhould

ſhould he refuſe to comply with the modeſt demand of twenty thouſand pagodas. Overwhelmed as he then was, the noble reſentment he expreſſed of this treatment ſpoke his fortitude of ſoul; and the active ſearch made into that baſe and odious proceeding, with the juſt ſentence on the culprit, do great honour to the man who detected, and ſtigmatized the infamy.

A fair review of *Mohammud Allée Kawn*'s conduct, during his father's life, muſt warm each generous boſom with ſome glowing inſtances of an early and fervent attachment to your cauſe. *Fort St. George* capitulated ſo ſoon after *La Bourdonnois*' appearance before it, that the ſuccours he was bringing by his father's order, to its relief, heard of its ſurrender, before they could poſſibly reach it. There can be little doubt but *Fort St. David*'s, in its condition at that time, muſt have ſubmitted to the ſame fate, had not a detachment ſent by *Anaverdy Kawn*, under the command of his ſon, retarded the operations till Commodore *Griffin*'s arrival. During that interval the *French* made uſe of every art which intrigue, fineſſe, or policy could ſuggeſt, to ſhake young *Mohammud*'s conſtancy, but all in vain; every offer made him met with an unheſitated, a contemptuous refuſal, and he iſſued ſtrict orders, that no letters from them ſhould be received into his camp. A ſpring like this, promiſed the genuine fruits of fidelity and filial devotion, fruits

rarely

rarely ſeen in a country, where treachery is almoſt native of the ſoil, and where fathers frequently find ſnakes in thoſe boſoms, in which they had, erroneouſly alas! imagined they had implanted their own affections. Such a particular immunity from the corrupt, the peſtilential contagion of time and place, muſt be a criterion of uncommon purity and firmneſs of mind. It was, without the leaſt attempt to elevate ſuch eſſential merit, a ſufficient ground for the happy preſage of that credit and advantage, you would naturally derive from the future friendſhip of ſuch an ally. Autumn has yielded you every fruit, which ſpring had promiſed.

His father, *Anaverdy Kawn*, ſurvived to bequeath you his laſt proof, his legacy of amity, in a detachment he ſent to join Admiral *Boſcawen* before *Pondicherry*, together with an order to all his *Havildars* (his renters) to ſupply the Admiral's army with proviſions. Soon after, at eighty years of age, he fell like a brave old ſoldier, with moſt of the chiefs of his army, oppoſing the united forces of *Hedayet Moyeddeen Kawn*, *Chundah Soib*, and the *French*; the former of whom, a nephew of *Nazir Jung*, had made an irruption into the *Carnatick*, and at the inſtigation of *Chundah Soib*, the laſt had joined him.

From this period, his ſon, the preſent *Nabob*, became your immediate ally; his friendſhip to this very day has been invariable; and the alternate ſtrokes of adverſity and proſperity he

he has felt, with the ebb and flow of your affairs, have proved him fully equal to both. At the very time, when his fortune has worn the moſt gloomy aſpect, he has reſiſted ſuch temptations from your enemies, as would do honour to a crowned head in either hemiſphere. *Salabat Zing*, at that period, *Subah* of the *Decan*, offered him, through *M. Dupleix*, theſe very *Circars*, of which you have received a late grant from *Shah Allum*. This indeed was expreſsly on condition, that he would relinquiſh your cauſe, but he rejected the offer with immediate contempt, and ſent this ſpirited anſwer to the *Subah*, "I value the friendſhip of the *Engliſh* beyond every gift your power can confer." When the ſame prince had taken umbrage at *M. Buſſy*'s behaviour, the ſame offer was repeated, and met with the ſame return. After the capture of *Maſsulipatnam*, both Colonel *Ford* and *Vizia Ram Rawz* wrote to him to join them, and they would put him in immediate poſſeſſion of the five *Circars*; but unpromiſing as his affairs then were, he declined taking a ſingle ſtep, which might be diſapproved by your preſident and council of *Fort. St. George*.

The chearful aſſiſtance he gave to the expedition againſt *Manilha*, a conqueſt, under every event, utterly barren of advantage to himſelf, merited and received the thanks of your governour by letter. As there is not the leaſt deſign, nor indeed occaſion, to amplify the merit of *Mohammud Allée Kawn*,

Kawn, with regard to his allies, it is acknowledged his aſſiſtance was not conſiderable: it was ſuch, however, as was ſuitable to his ſituation at that time; and it ſufficiently teſtified the continual warmth and tenor of his affection to the *Engliſh*.

May I be permitted to aſk, Gentlemen, if, ſince you have taken poſſeſſion of the ~~four Circars~~, you have added to the five number of your troops on the coaſt of *Coromandel*? But as your affairs are doubtleſs conducted upon principles of equity, the queſtion appears ſuperfluous. You muſt certainly, at leaſt, have made an addition ſufficient for the preſervation of seperate theſe new acquiſitions; ſince it cannot be reaſonably preſumed you would deduct from the forces you have ſtipulated to keep up for the ſecurity of the *Nabob*'s country, in order to your employing them for the defence of another, in which he is no way intereſted. The leaſt reflection on the ſubject immediately ſuggeſts the perfect expediency and prudence, as well as the juſtice, of ſuch an addition. Your tenure of theſe diſtricts from *Shah Allum*, though politically aſſented to for the preſent, by *Nizam Allée Kawn*, will be the foundation of endleſs diſputes, whenever he recovers his ſtrength; and the *Carnatick*, not the *Circars*, will be the field choſen to decide them. Under ſuch a circumſtance, what will not your injured ally ſuffer, at all events, from your poſſeſſion

of this country? But ſhould a powerful invaſion of both take place at the ſame time, under a neglect of this neceſſary augmentation, you muſt incur the cenſure both of improvidence, and a deſertion of your treaty; whence you may probably expect a double embarraſſment, or at the beſt be reduced to widen one gap for the repair of another. Had juſtice or gratitude been conſulted in the diſpoſal of theſe diſtricts, every inconvenience, which the ſequel may entail on you, would probably have been prevented. The very contraſt to this conduct would certainly have prevailed, had it been poſſible, that the ſentiments of a diſcerning worthy gentleman, ſince appointed ſucceſſor to the chair, could have operated, previous to this tranſaction.

Your late memorable alliance was uſhered in with a *Jeu* worthy to be recorded. The ironical and nearly inſulting application, made for *Mohammud Allée Kawn*'s conſent to the march of two hundred European infantry to *Heiderabad*, (which vile cloak was extended, like the oxe's hide by *Dido*, to involve five hundred and ſixty more) with the ſerious cataſtrophe of that tragical maſque, might probably regale and delight the maſquers themſelves, and their new confederate; while the old ſteady friend to their nation ſmarted ſufficiently by it, to exclaim with the frogs in the fable, — "Their ſport was death to him." And if the recent report of a peace,

peace, for which he is to be brokered out of *only* fifteen lacks of rupees (180,000 l. ſterling) ſhall prove a fact, the machination is too baſe to be thought of without horror. Were the caſe to affect but a *ſingle* ſufferer by it, it were much the ſame, as if a ſurgeon was to be juſtified for inflicting a large deep wound on a ſound and innocent perſon, upon the ſole motive of bringing him in an enormous bill to pay for healing it; however painful the wound, or whatever deformity or inconvenience might reſult from the ſcar.

But ſhould your preſent knot of amazing politicians on the coaſt ſtumble upon the conqueſt of the *Decan*; what but the conſcious recoil of fear, from their preceding ill-treatment, can reaſonably prevent their fixing *Mohammud Allée Kawn* in the *Subahſhip?* I would not be underſtood here to promote or juſtify ſuch a premeditated plan of conqueſt, (plans, which, I fear, in the end, will be found but little to harmonize with your commercial views) but ſhould ſuch an event follow, as the natural conſequence of a ſucceſsful war, I ſee no one ſo well intitled to reap the fruits of it, as the man, who, under every contingence, muſt have been the moſt conſiderable ſufferer by it, though the leaſt deſerving to ſuffer. But not to reſt the matter merely on gratitude, I declare, after a reſidence of many years on the coaſt, and after the moſt attentive conſideration of your intereſt there,

I cannot diſcern, that ſuch an acceſſion of power and property could be ſo ſafely, ſo politically, confided to any other *Aſiatic* potentate. Notwithſtanding the ungenerous treatment he has experienced from ſome of your ſervants, which he has conſtantly aſcribed to themſelves, and never to the nation nor you, his heart is as thoroughly *Engliſh*, as it is poſſible that of a prince can be, who has ſo large and ſo rich a domain, and ſuch numerous ſubjects and dependents of his own. It is well known, that when *Pondicherry* was taken, he declared, that by his conſent, no *Frenchman* ſhould ever ſet a foot again in the *Carnatick*. The preſent aſpect of affairs in Europe does not ſeem to promiſe the moſt durable tranquillity with our reſtleſs neighbour, and as an eminent ancient has obſerved —— Prudence will diſpoſe us, while in peace, to eſtabliſh the reſources and expedients that muſt be neceſſary in war. Now ſhould *Mohammud Allée Kawn* obtain this eſtabliſhment, there is certainly a much greater probability, that the army of the *Decan*, in any future national war, would be more at your devotion, than if its preſent prince ſhould continue in poſſeſſion, or a ſtranger ſhould ſucceed to it; and on the firſt rupture with *France*, you will find it neceſſary to oppoſe ſome ſuch powerful ally, as he would then become, to *Heider Naig*, whom the *French* will not fail to encourage to that period. It will then appear, whether an opinion, which many have long and ſtrenuouſly maintained,

maintained, *viz.* " that the *Peninſula* of *India* will be their " grand object of conqueſt," be founded in bare conjecture, or on the moſt natural and obvious inferences.

In truth, the preſervation of your old ally's friendſhip appears to me too ſerious and important to be ſported with. The act of inſult and injuſtice done him in the preference given to *Huſſein Allée Kawn*, as renter of the *Circars*, ſhould, in meer prudence, be reverſed in his favour; and the former ſhould be re-imburſed any ſums he may have given for that preference. Should a ſcene, like this, diſcloſe itſelf on a ſcrutiny, the parties engaged in it will be open to your proſecution for breach of covenants; when may juſtice and right policy fix their talons on the guilty; that their example may prevent a repetition of the like pernicious iniquities!

Many have been ſurprized, that, during the long repoſe you have enjoyed on the coaſt of *Coromandel*, the paſſes of the *Carnavi* have never been fortified; as ſuch a ſtep is ſo eſſential both to the ſecurity of your ally's country, and to the peaceable enjoyment and improvement of your inland commerce. Had this been undertaken on the immediate ſurrender of *Pondicherry*, (when the ſeiſure of *Autoor* would have been a juſt correction of *Heider Naig*'s hoſtilities in the *Carnatick)* the ſeveral invaſions which have ſince happened, would have been prevented. The ſuppoſed unhealthineſs of *Cadapha-Nattam*, *Damlacherry*, *Gegadevi*, or *Autoor*,

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can never be an objection, while you keep poſſeſſion of *Gingee*. The uſual recourſe to black troops in ſuch ſituations is ſufficiently defenſible, from the argument of ſuperior utility alone. As mere ſtationary bodies, they anſwer every purpoſe of an *European* cantonment, with this advantage, that, naturalized from their birth to the climate, their ſupple conſtitutions bend, like our willows, to each inclement blaſt; and whenever they are threatened with an attack, they may always be opportunely reinforced.

The natural, and I hope the honeſt warmth of my temper, has led me to point out to you ſuch rocks, as I thought both your honour and intereſt would ſtudiouſly avoid; but I ſhould feel myſelf loſt to the common duties of humanity, were I to omit one, on which, without proper precaution, both muſt inevitably ſplit. To bid adieu to metaphor, beware that repeated indignities do not finally prevail over a long approved fidelity and attachment. Remember, the moſt noble, the moſt patient, and perſevering ſpirits, when agitated by a ſeries of unmerited injuries, become the moſt terrible in their reſentments.

Furor fit læſa fæpius patientia.

The *French* know the real value of, and have always envied you, this alliance. Artful and inſinuating in their natures,

ever vigilant in conducting the ſcheme of politics, which they have projected, they will exert every effort to avail themſelves of the leaſt decay of affection, which the conduct of your ſervants may occaſion in the heart of *Mohammud Allée Kawn*. He may indeed be juſtly thought ſuperior to their utmoſt cajollery and artifice, which he has always proved, and will as long as he feels himſelf not neglected by the nation he loves. His own manly and liberal nature is, in itſelf, averſe to that national infidelity, that levity and ſupplenes, which continue to characterize this people from the days of *Julius Cæſar* to our own: but there is no anſwering for the effects of an unremitting aſſiduity on the one hand, and too palpable a diſregard, at leaſt, on the other. Under theſe circumſtances, ſhould their wiles be finally attended with ſucceſs, the balance thrown into their ſcale, in a future national war, will aſcertain, too late, the eſſential value, the political importance, of the jewel you had relinquiſhed.

But if as a man he feels, and perhaps exquiſitely, every inſtance of an undeſerved neglect, as a good man, he is ſtill more affected with every proof of your benevolence and protection. He muſt have obſerved, with entire gratitude, the juſtice and amity of the late and preſent worthy directors, not only in their reſtraints on their ſervants, by the covenants, but alſo in the reduction of his intereſt to ten per cent: as they rightly diſcerned, that twice that intereſt muſt have been

been very burdenſome to a prince, already ſo conſiderably indebted. In truth, his natural generoſity, and obliging demeanour, are ſo attractive of eſteem, that the few who reſpected his virtues, as much as they valued his money, were delighted with a regulation, by which they became, eventually, conſiderable looſers. Abject little minds are contracted to an hourly ſolicitude for themſelves, and their cloſeſt relatives; and doubtleſs a reaſonable and honeſt attention to ſuch objects is far from being culpable. But the rich and ſentimental ſpirit, who cares and feels for the diſtreſt and deſerving, is generally ſatisfied, under ſueh circumſtances, as ſuffice to juſtice, to utility, and to the exerciſe of ſome beneficence. Without any exaggeration, the good qualities of this prince are ſuch, as a generous enemy would eſteem and reverence; but they cannot be over-rated by a people, for whom he has long demonſtrated an avowed, an inviolable preference. I readily acknowledge, for my own part, the delicate gratification I feel, on rendering this juſtice to his deſert; and I have indulged myſelf in it with the leſs reſtraint, from a certainty of his entire ignorance of my writing this, or of my ever having intended to publiſh or write any thing relating to him.

Should theſe deſcants, however, on the character and treatment of *Mohammud Allée Kawn*, be cenſured by his enemies, as eager and profuſe, I can truly affirm, (with all pro-

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per reſpect for his worth) that I have been principally impelled to this publication, by an ardent zeal for the luſtre and reputation of the *Britiſh* name and empire; for the durable intereſts of its commerce, and for the credit of thoſe gentlemen intruſted with the direction of it, particularly of that to *Aſia*. If theſe motives are importantly connected with the ſecurity and dignity of *Mohammud Allée Kawn*, may our protection of him be effectual! and may every unneceſſary depreſſion or degradation of him be conſidered, not only as ingrateful, but as highly imprudent! It was the ſound and honeſt policy of the lateſt conquerors of the world, to cheriſh and ſupport all their faithful confederates; and what they exerted ſo ſucceſsfully, in many extenſive inſtances, may deſerve our occaſional imitation, in a more circumſcribed one.

Finally, if I ſhall be thought to have vented my ſentiments of the late treaty (which I can, by no means, Gentlemen, term yours) with too much heat and poignancy, I ſincerely aver, and the unprejudiced will believe me, that they have ſprung from my abhorrence of the firſt attempt to introduce the politics of *Bengall* into the ſoil of *Coromandel*. Happy! happy to my fondeſt wiſhes! in the event, which has proved its purity too great to produce the ſame corrupt fruit.

I have the honour to be, with the warmeſt good wiſhes for the laſting and inſeparable intereſts of the India trade, and of the proprietors of India ſtock,

GENTLEMEN,

Your moſt obedient, and

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Moſt faithful humble ſervant,

Y. Z.